

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend claims 2-3 and 6-7. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein ~~selected from (a) to (d), or a portion thereof:~~
  - ~~(a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;~~
  - ~~(b) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein one or more amino acids have been modified by deletion, substitution, addition, and/or insertion;~~
  - ~~(c) a protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions with a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and~~
  - ~~(d) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence having 60% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 4-5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 2.
7. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 6, which is used to prevent, improve, or treat cardiac failure, cardiomegaly, myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, arteriosclerosis, arteriosclerosis obliterans, or ischemic heart disease.